

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed on August 9, 2007, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

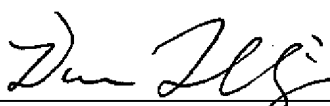
In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 17-20 are allowed and that claims 2-3 and 10-12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claims 17-20 are allowed and that claims 2-3 and 10-12 contain patentable subject matter. By means of the present amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the features of allowable claim 2 which has been canceled without prejudice.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 should be allowable, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 3 and 7-16 should also be allowed at least based on its dependence from independent claim 1.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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